

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF MORTGAGE AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today Representatives MAXINE WATERS (D-CA), CHARLIE MELANCON (D-LA) and I introduced the Mortgage and Rental Assistance Reauthorization Act to give victims of Hurricane Katrina the same housing aid awarded to New Yorkers in the aftermath of 9/11.

Once fully implemented, the Mortgage and Rental Assistance (MRA) program was one of the most useful FEMA programs following 9/11. This grant program provided direct mortgage or rent payments for individuals still living in their home, but were experiencing difficulties in making payments. When FEMA administered the program in New York, recipients were required to have a loss of income of at least 25 percent to qualify. Rent or mortgage payments lasted up to eighteen months. This program was particularly useful for people who lost their job as a result of 9/11 and could not afford to pay their rent or mortgage.

Unfortunately, 9/11 was the last disaster for which this program was available. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 eliminated this program because it was considered too costly and difficult to administer (the enactment date was 18 months and the attacks of 9/11 occurred after this act was signed into law, but before enactment). The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 merged temporary housing assistance with grants to individuals and families. This merge now limits the assistance FEMA is allowed to provide victims of disasters.

On December 1, 2005, the three-month mortgage suspension on mortgages for victims of Katrina expired and many individuals are now faced with mortgage bills they are unable to afford. This week the Bush Administration announced a limited loan program to assist victims having difficulty paying their mortgage.

This program was instrumental in stabilizing New York's economy after 9/11, it is beyond me why we are now refusing to get the people of the Gulf Coast the very same aid we got in New York. The offering of loans to pay off loans unfairly straddle Katrina victims with more debt. When Congress debated converting reconstruction aid to Iraq from grants to loans, the Administration threatened a veto. Why should reconstruction of the Gulf Coast be any different?

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 196

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House considered the recognition of the anniversary of the 13th amendment, H.

Res. 196. On the 31st day of January, 1865, the 13th amendment was proposed to the State legislatures by the 38th Congress and ratified by 27 of the 36 State legislatures on December 6, 1865. January 31, 1865, the day the House passed the proposal, the gallery which had just opened to African-Americans erupted into cheers and Representatives on the House floor were visibly emotional, crying and hugging each other. Slavery had ended and the deep roots of the modern civil rights movement were planted.

Although the abolition of slavery did not mean equality for all Americans, the amendment initiated a civil rights movement that continues to this day.

Through the ratification of this landmark legislation, our government initiated the process to work towards uniting the American people. Their actions also inspired the eventual passage of the 14th amendment, which granted equal protection under the law, the 15th amendment, which gave African-American males the right to vote, and the 19th amendment which granted universal suffrage to all women.

Despite these monumental changes in our Nation's constitution, African-Americans and other minorities continue to experience social and economical injustices. I submit to you Mr. Speaker that we still have a long way to go to rid our Nation of the vestiges of slavery and discrimination. By passing this legislation, we are renewing a national commitment towards eradicating racial and ethnic inequalities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, due to official business, I missed four votes on December 7, 2005. I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 615, tabling appeal of the ruling of the chair; "no" on rollcall vote No. 616, the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 617, the Tax Revision Act; and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 618, the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005.

TAX REVISION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 4388—Tax Revision Act of 2005.

This bill has many important components that assist the America in being competitive in a global economy, but I specifically want to talk about the provisions in this legislation that concern the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and all the hard work that one of our colleagues, LUIS FORTUÑO has done on this bill.

H.R. 4388 extends the benefits of the manufacturing deduction enacted with the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 to manufacturing operations conducted in Puerto Rico.

This is an issue of the utmost importance to the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico, and being such, was a top legislative priority for Mr. FORTUÑO.

Under current law, U.S. corporations that operate in Puerto Rico are subject to full U.S. tax on the income from those operations in the same manner as income from operations in the mainland.

Thus, a U.S. corporation's income from manufacturing activities in Puerto Rico is subject to immediate tax in the United States, as well as being subject to tax in Puerto Rico. This difference in tax treatment under current law means that the tax burden of operating in Puerto Rico is significantly higher than in the United States.

This means, Mr. Speaker, that you pay a higher tax of 35 percent on income on a product manufactured in Puerto Rico versus a lower tax of 32 percent on that same product manufactured in the States.

The higher tax burden creates a clear disincentive for U.S. companies to manufacture in Puerto Rico. It distorts manufacturing location choices, putting Puerto Rico at a disadvantage relative to the mainland in terms of attracting and retaining investment.

This bill eliminates the disadvantage for manufacturing in Puerto Rico created under current law. It provides U.S. companies with comparable tax treatment for their manufacturing activities in Puerto Rico and their manufacturing activities conducted in the States.

Last year, we enacted the American Jobs Creation Act to enhance the ability of U.S. companies to compete in the global marketplace.

At the time, we stated that "a reduced tax burden on domestic manufacturers will improve the cash flow of domestic manufacturers and make investments in domestic manufacturing facilities more attractive. Such investment will assist in the creation and preservation of U.S. manufacturing jobs."

I agree with this wholeheartedly. Extending equal treatment to manufacturing conducted in Puerto Rico will further enhance the ability of U.S. companies to compete in the global marketplace. It will assist in the creation and preservation of the local manufacturing jobs that are so vitally important to the Puerto Rican economy.

This bill does not provide special benefit to Puerto Rico or to companies operating in Puerto Rico. It simply levels the playing field by treating manufacturing in Puerto Rico the same as manufacturing in the mainland, leaving companies free to choose where to locate based on business considerations.

Mr. Speaker, once again, let me thank Mr. FORTUÑO for his hard work on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES IN IRAQ BE TERMINATED IMMEDIATELY

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I support JACK MURTHA but I do not support this fraudulent Republican Resolution.

In my district back in 2000, tens of thousands of ballots were thrown out, spit out by faulty machines.

The Republicans stole the election back in 2000 and now we are at war.

It's time for the Republicans to talk the talk and walk the walk.

If they want war, give them a gun and make them go fight.

Those in the White House who have deferred 5 times and others over there who were called to duty yet never showed up . . . how dare they call Mr. MURTHA a coward!

JOHN MURTHA has been the most ardent supporter of our troops on the ground in Congress.

In his 37 years in the Marines, JOHN MURTHA won two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star with Combat "V", and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He was awarded the Navy Distinguished Service Medal by the Marine Corps Commandant when he retired from the Marines.

JOHN MURTHA earned his bona fides to comment on what the troops are going through when he volunteered for duty in Vietnam.

And yes, Mr. Speaker, I can't speak for Congressman MURTHA but I will tell you straight out that I AM calling the President, and the others in the White House who have intentionally misled the Americans into this war liars.

They knew from the outset that there weren't any Weapons of Mass Destruction over there.

They knew from the outset that there was no connection between Al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein.

But yet, Mr. Speaker, we went in there anyway.

And now over 2,000 of our brave soldiers have lost their lives; over 30,000 have suffered permanent injuries and their lives, or the lives of their loved ones will never be the same.

This war is a sham, it was a sham from the get go, and it is a sham today.

Now, I support the troops but I do not support the leaders of this Nation who led them into battle without enough equipment, and without any exit plan whatsoever.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO MEN'S SOCCER TEAM FOR ADVANCING TO THE COLLEGE CUP

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of New Mexico Men's Soccer Team for advancing to the College Cup for the first time in school history. Last Friday, in the fourth round of the NCAA Tournament the second seeded Lobos defeated seventh seeded California Bears 1-0 to advance to the College Cup in Cary, North Carolina.

These Lobo student athletes have proudly represented the UNM in classroom and on the field. Led by Head Coach Jeremy Fishbein the Lobos finished the season with a 15-1-2 finish and a No.1 ranking in the final NSCAA Top-25 and Soccer Times Top-25 poll.

Mr. Speaker, this team is packed with home grown talent. A total of nine players are from New Mexico including seven from my district in Albuquerque. In fact, Mr. Speaker, three Albuquerque Public High School graduates combined for the winning overtime goal against California. Eldorado Eagle Brandon Moss passed down the field to Sandia Matador Ben Ashwil who chipped to La Cueva Bear Jeff Rowland who buried the ball in the net for the winning goal.

I would also like to congratulate UNM seniors Jeff Rowland and Lance Watson for being two of only 54 collegiate soccer players who received invitations to the 2006 Adidas MLS Player Combine, a pre-draft Major League Soccer camp. In addition, Jeff Rowland, a non recruited walk on who maintains over a 3.7 cumulative g.p.a. is a candidate for the Herman Trophy, awarded annually to the top player in college soccer.

Players and fans alike often have strange superstitions to ward off bad luck. For example, Mr. Speaker, former baseball player Wade Boggs would eat only chicken the day of a game. Many Lobo players their fans and family have kicked it up a notch by growing moustaches.

I am eagerly anticipating the Lobos College Cup Semifinals game against Clemson, tomorrow, December 9, 2005, as these Lobo athletes proudly represent the University of New Mexico on the national stage.

Mr. Speaker, In closing, I wish to commend the UNM Men's Soccer Team, UNM Head Coach Jeremy Fishbein, UNM athletic director Rudy Davalos, and all the dedicated Lobo fans for this successful season. Go Lobos.

TRIBUTE TO H. WALKER FEASTER III

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to H. Walker Feaster III, Inspector General of the Federal Communications Commission, who retired on January 3, 2006, after 38 years of Federal service—32 of which were served at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Walker attended Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 1966. Walker's distinguished career began with service in the U.S. Navy from August 1966 to August 1971. Walker served as Combat Information Center Officer/Intelligence Officer on a guided missile frigate and was deployed to the Middle East on the flagship for the Commander, Middle East Forces. Walker also served as Staff Assistant to the Deputy Commander for Plans, Naval Telecommunications Command. Walker was discharged from active duty with the rank of Lieutenant and ultimately retired from the U.S. Naval Reserve with the rank of Commander in 1992.

In October 1971, Walker went back to work for the Naval Telecommunications Service as a civilian employee and in January 1974, after a brief career in the private sector, Walker joined the FCC as a Senior Analyst and later Deputy Chief of the Management Systems Division within the Office of Managing Director.

During this period, Walker also found time to earn a Master of Science in Government from Southern Illinois University in 1975 and earn a Master of Business Administration from American University in 1977. In 1978, Walker joined the staff of the FCC's Private Radio Bureau first as the Assistant Bureau Chief for Management and later as the Associate Bureau Chief for Operations. In 1981, he rejoined the Office of Managing Director as the Deputy Chief of Management Planning and later became the Associate Managing Director for Program Analysis.

Walker was named as the Acting Inspector General of the FCC on November 14, 1994, and, on April 14, 1996, was officially appointed as the Inspector General, the position he held until his retirement. Walker had many accomplishments as the FCC's Inspector General. Directing a staff of 14 professionals, he expanded oversight of Commission operations and improved the objectivity and integrity of audits and investigations. During his tenure, he directed over 167 audits/surveys/special reports of Commission operations and programs making over 600 recommendations or observations and achieving Commission concurrence for over 95 percent of those findings. He also directed over 270 inquiries/investigations of Commission employees and contractors and assisted Federal prosecutors in criminal investigations and prosecutions resulting in plea agreements, criminal fines, civil settlements and restitutions. Walker prepared Semi-Annual Reports to Congress on office activities and testified before House and Senate committees on numerous occasions.

Walker and his wife Susan have two children, Nicole and Nicholas. Susan Smith Feaster is the President of Coastal Partners, Ltd., and CEO and Chairman of the Board for the World Leadership Institute. Susan also formerly served on the staffs of United States Senator Paul Trible, Jr. and Congressman Frank R. Wolf. Nicole, a sixth grader who speaks French fluently, is an outstanding student and athlete. She participates in Tai Kwon Do, basketball and softball. Nicholas, a bright little 3 year old, attends preschool in Georgetown, and is busy learning the alphabet and his numbers in French. The Feaster family enjoys attending sporting events together and vacations to destinations in the United States and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career of H. Walker Feaster III. With Walker's retirement, the FCC loses an enthusiastic, innovative leader and an exemplary Federal employee.

RECOGNITION OF THE SKYHAWKS, NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONS

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Skyhawks, Fort Lewis College's Men's Soccer team for winning the 2005-2006 NCAA Division II National Championship. Being undefeated, ranked first in the nation, and then winning the National Championship is indeed a dream season for this phenomenal group of athletes.